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DID HUNT PEN 'TIMES' COLUMN?

Ex-CIA Man Says He Wrote 1967 Sulzberger Column

E. Howard Hunt, former CIA officer and paroled Watergate conspirator, says he is the author of a column about Soviet spies that appeared under C.L. Sulzberger's byline in *The New York Times* September 13, 1967. Hunt says the column, which carried the headline "Foreign Affairs: Where the Spies Are," is "75 per cent unchanged" from an article he prepared at the request of then-CIA director Richard Helms.

Hunt's disclosure to MORE follows revelations made by Carl Bernstein, of Watergate fame, in an article that appears in the October 20 issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Bernstein's article, which claims that some 400 newsmen secretly cooperated with the CIA, specifically mentions Sulzberger as one of the agency's chief media "assets."

On one occasion, Bernstein writes, "according to several CIA officials, Sulzberger was given a briefing paper by the agency which ran almost verbatim under the columnist's [Sulzberger's] byline in the *Times*." Bernstein quotes the source as saying, "We gave it to Cy as a background piece and Cy gave it to the printers and put his name on it." No additional information about the incident was provided by Bern-

stein, though he reports that Sulzberger denied the story.

Hunt, reached at his home in Miami, insists that he was the real author of the column. He says that the information about Soviet spying in the piece was given to Helms by Howard J. Osborn, the CIA's chief of security, and that Helms passed the material on to Hunt, asking him to write it up as an article.

Recalls Hunt, who quit the CIA

in 1970: "When the director calls me up and says I've got a couple of files here, I want you to do a story, about 800 words, and I'll try it out on Cy Sulzberger, I do it."

According to Hunt, he carried out his assignment and gave the article to Helms. It appeared, virtually unchanged, a few weeks later under Sulzberger's byline, he says. Hunt claims he had no contact with the columnist and assumes his article was passed to Sulzberger by Helms.

Richard Helms, contacted at his home in Washington, refused to discuss the incident. "I didn't start all this business, and I'm not responsible for it," the former CIA director said.

Howard Osborn, now retired from the CIA, says he does not recall the September 13

Sulzberger column or having given any materials to Helms for use in a Sulzberger column. After having the column read to him, however, he said, "It has the ring of truth to it. This would be the type of thing I would report to Helms on."

Osborn, who later served as CIA liaison with the White House plumbers during the Nixon years, did not deny that the information in the Sulzberger column came from him. He added that the details about Soviet espionage contained in the piece were not generally available to the public and could only have come from intelligence sources.

Sulzberger's column details the "wide use of diplomatic, journalistic, and commercial cover" by agents of the KGB and GRU—the Soviet Union's intelligence agencies—and names a dozen individuals, primarily diplomats, as spies. "Experts assume," the column states, "no Soviet diplomatic establishment draws fewer than half its staff from GRU or KGB rosters."

Bernstein's *Rolling Stone* article quotes Sulzberger as saying he "would never get caught near the spook business." The *Times* columnist, who has been a diplomatic correspondent for the paper for more than 30 years, told Bernstein that he personally knew Helms and other CIA directors. "But I never took an assignment from one of those guys," he is reported as saying. "They'd have had to be awfully subtle to have used me."

In a prepared statement released by the *Times* September 12 in response to the Bernstein article, Sulzberger said, "Any allegation that I ever worked in any capacity for the CIA is false."

Reached on the Greek island of Spetsais, where he was vacationing, Sulzberger refused to comment on the September 13, 1967, column. When informed that MORE had located the person who claims to have written the piece, Sulzberger said, "I'm not going to get mixed up in any more of these telephone interviews on spies and the CIA. If you want to know anything about this, write me a letter." He then abruptly hung up the phone.

'WHERE THE SPIES ARE'

The following are excerpts from C. L. Sulzberger's September 13, 1967 New York Times column, "Foreign Affairs: Where the Spies Are."

... The highly proficient Soviet espionage apparatus of G. R. U. (military intelligence) and K. G. B. (interior ministry) makes wide use of diplomatic, journalistic, and commercial cover. The G. R. U. officer arrested in the Rinaldi case, Yuri Pavlenko, was an attaché in the Rome embassy. Rinaldi exposed Albert Zakharov, embassy secretary in Athens.

Allied officials are now perplexed by the appearance on the West European scene of a new type of superspy assigned to political action and reporting directly to the Soviet Communist Party's International Section, an echelon above K. G. B. and G. R. U. Four diplomats believed to hold such assignments are Sergei Kudryavtsev, Minister-Counselor in Bonn; Pavel Medvedovsky, Counselor in Rome; and Vladimir Feodorov and Georgi Farafonov, Counselors in Helsinki.

The watch persists in the skies, on the high seas where trawlers and submarines carry complex electronic devices; along endless frontiers from Norway to Kamchatka; and in the susurous cellars of embassies around the world. The overt cold war has eased—but not its covert counterpart.